



Photo by George Drake

# *LIBRETTO*

## SYMPHONY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

Vol. XVII No. 12

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To enhance the quality of life and promote a harmonious community through the timely publication of accurate information about residents, events, and activities in and around Symphony Village.



### Happy Hanukkah

Hanukkah 2022 begins the evening of Sunday, December 18, 2022, and ends on the evening of Monday, December 26, 2022



### Merry Christmas

Sunday, December 25, 2022,  
Christmas Day 2022



### Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa 2022 in the United States begins Monday, December 26, and ends Sunday, January 1, 2023

### Happy New Year 2022

Friday, December 31, 2022,  
New Year's Eve



## Welcome to the Neighborhood!



Faye Downey & Ava Thompson  
205 Opera Court

Ann T. Rogers  
157 Symphony Way

Linda Hatfield  
721 Harmony Way

Kevin & Lynn Duckworth  
227 Orchestra Place

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## 2022 SV HOA BOD

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### PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL SUMMARY – 2022

PAT FOX, PRESIDENT

2022 HAS BEEN A SUCCESSFUL YEAR ALL IN ALL. We finally completed revisions of the SV governing Documents after a four-year effort that stalled along the way. These documents have been filed with the appropriate agencies as defined by law. While they are accessible on our SV Website, we will be mailing hard copies for your personal files.

We also hired ProCom as our property manager. They have been handling our financial work—dues receipt, bill paying, budget tracking since 2017, which remains as part of their tasks. Rebecca, Julia, and Nick are now employees of ProCom. It has been beneficial to go to Scott Davis, the owner with over 20 years' experience with the company that also manages over 60 other MD HOAs, and be able to ask, "What do other HOAs do in this situation?" Previously, it often meant going to our costly attorney for answers.

From an infrastructure standpoint, we resurfaced the tennis/pickleball courts; resurfaced the interior of the outdoor pool, replaced various pool equipment that failed, such as the spa heater, replaced irrigation equipment that failed, and replaced the indoor pool door to the parking lot. We also have set up the new memorial garden in the patio adjacent to the pavilion by adding a wind-driven metal sculpture to the large resin pot and planted perennials there. Dead trees were removed and replaced where prudent. Trees and shrubs were treated for where necessary pests. We now have new procedures for trees and landscaping. For trees, Bartlett Tree inspects areas of SV every two weeks tracking pest seasons and diseases, etc., and deals with any problem during the inspection. This regular inspection process has saved us \$6,000 this year. For landscaping, Level Green recently started mowing our lawns and common areas over the course of four days versus all in one day. The intent is to improve the quality of the service including slowing down and avoiding ruts and other damage. If there is a problem, they are onsite four days a week whereby they can respond to the complaint. The new Board and management will continue to monitor this in 2023.

There are many other maintenance items that the BOD and staff has addressed. This information can be obtained on our Website from the detailed Management Reports prepared by Rebecca Wagner as well as all past Board packets and minutes.

There are some areas where it isn't such great news. As you know, we are looking at an assessment increase for the first time in nine years, where we have consistently paid \$230 per month. Due to inflation, supply chain difficulties, ability of vendors to attract labor, etc., most of our regular service contracts costs have increased significantly for 2023—an average of 14%. On top of this, the State passed a law requiring a greater contribution to our Reserve Fund. Even though SV has a comfortable margin, we need to generate additional moneys for this fund. This change was precipitated by the disastrous Condo collapse in Florida a few years ago due to deferred maintenance. While we are a single-family home HOA, the same legislative concern about adequate replacement coverage has spread across the United States. As a result, we are dealing with not only increased service costs, but also the need to make a larger annual contribution to reserves. We recommended a 13% increase of \$30, which amounts to a \$260 monthly assessment. A May 2022 state law allows us to increase our dues above our 10% threshold identified in our governing document to meet this contribution requirement. Still, to meet the reserve requirement, we will have to take some funds from our rainy day and unobligated cash funds.

The Board, Committees, and management work hard to develop a proposed budget for an upcoming year. Of course, a budget is a plan—you don't know what the new year will bring. In 2022, we overran our snow removal budget by almost \$37,000, and our legal fees by nearly \$26,000. While the legal docs are finished, and a good proportion of that total expenditure was for that effort, we also had complaints that needed to be addressed by our lawyer. A resident filed a written complaint to the state attorney general about our closed work sessions that two different firms of attorneys, who are experts in HOA law, said we were OK in doing. This complaint cost the HOA \$7,550 in 2022—so one quarter of the overrun.

There are other items that we had hoped to complete in 2022 but must continue into the new year. For instance, SV is attempting to recover nearly \$14,000 paid to the town of Centreville in 2017 to enable receiving a construction permit for the expansion project. The town charged us these funds to cover any increased water usage, known as an EDU or Equivalent Daily Usage, despite SV being fully built out (no new houses), and we don't rent the Concert Hall outsiders. We have been tracking our water use over time since the project was completed, but Covid interrupted what can be defined as reasonable data from the town's perspective. Their latest Clubhouse fulltime use threshold is calendar year 2022. At the beginning of April, 2023, the Board will evaluate the 2022 last quarter water usage invoice and determine if during the calendar year we remained at or under three EDUs. SV will then apply to receive the funds. If we go over the three EDUs even a sliver, they will round up to four so we would be out of luck.

We have heard nothing lately from the town about their water meter reader program that would result in a flagpole and antenna mounted in the Symphony Way traffic circle. Our newly elected council person, Jim Beauchamp, had proposed that the project be delayed until other options could be evaluated; however, there was not a majority of the town council in support. Our Board told the town we want a written agreement outlining rights and responsibilities of each party signed by each party for our protection.

Regarding the Cannabis operation in town—while Green Thumb Incorporated recently admitted their plants smell when budding in September and October, even at the end of November, there was a strong odor. As an aside, I smelled a strong odor on December 6 in my front yard. I told the 2023 Board that I am tracking this, working with two town council people, which I will report to them about. With the recent passage of legalization of cannabis starting next July, we must be careful that their operation does not expand without some boundaries and controls. As another aside, the group I am working with is tracking these odors. If you notice this strong skunky odor, please send me a short email with the date, time, and your address.

This is my last meeting after six years on the Board. I've enjoyed serving this community and welcome the new board members who will replace Pat Ways and me. I thank the current BOD members for all their hard work—especially their agreeing to work consistently to finish and close out the updating of the governing documents.

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## **HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS – DECEMBER 2022      DEBI WELLS, HOA BOD SECRETARY**

Thank you to all who made time to attend HOA meetings this year. If you were not available to attend the December meeting, the highlights are below. Please note, this article is to update residents on HOA Board decisions, it does not replace the higher level of detail (contract specifics, etc.) found in HOA meeting minutes and other documents on the community's website.

**Email Board Approval:** There was one urgent email vote ratified by the Board since the October 21 HOA meeting. It was to replace additional sidewalk blocks last month while the contractor was on-site. This was a time-sensitive matter since fast approaching winter weather would prohibit the work this year. (This November 16 motion and approval for sidewalk replacements authorized approximately \$1.4K for the additional sidewalk work in addition to a \$2.5K contingency for any unexpected expenses. These amounts were added to the October 21 HOA meeting approval of \$25K for sidewalk replacements.)

**December HOA Meeting – Board Votes:** The following projects and/or activities for the community were voted upon at the December 7, 2022, HOA meeting:

**Landscape Maintenance Contract for 2023:** Level Green submitted a one-year contract to continue turf management (mowing operations across multiple days), edging, trimming, fertilizer applications, weed control, soil tests, insect control, aeration, overseeding, spring clean-up, mulch, leaf removal, and more; the detailed contract is available on the Symphony Village Website). After a review by the Landscape & Irrigation (L&I) Committee and the Board, this contract was approved for ~\$283K.

**Irrigation Pump 2 Variable Flow Drive (VFD) Replacement:** L&I recommended this pump be replaced/purchased this year. It will be installed by Eagle Pump and Montgomery Irrigation in Spring 2023.

Currently, the existing pump erroneously emits on-going alarms that often frequently turns the pump off, which impacted half of the community. The Board approved this pump replacement from Reserve Funds for under \$7.2K.

Amended Governing Documents Mailer: The HOA is required to distribute the recorded HOA documents to all residents following the approval of the amendments earlier this year. While the documents are available on the community's Website, access is different than distribution. By law, distribution is required. Two options to send this mailer were possible: (1) mail to all 395 homeowners at a cost not-to-exceed \$3.5K; or (2) mail only to non-registered homeowners to the ProCom portal (164) that can send an electronic distribution and email to remaining homeowners electronically at a cost not-to-exceed \$1.7K. The Board approved the first option to ensure the legal requirement was met.

Lease Addendum: An Addendum To Lease form was approved by the Board to support Article 8.7 of the 2022 approved HOA governing documents. Highlighted in the Addendum are Articles 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, and 8.5 of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions.

2023 Budget: The 2023 budget, as presented, was approved by Board. Included in the 2023 budget is an increase in the HOA monthly assessment. Starting January 1, 2023, the HOA fee will be increased from \$230/month to \$260/month.

Effective October 1, 2022, "The governing body of a homeowners association has the authority to increase an assessment levied to cover the reserve funding amount required under § 11B-112.3 of this title (MD Code, Real Prop. § 11B-117), notwithstanding any provision of the declaration, articles of incorporation, or bylaws restricting assessment increases or capping the assessment that may be levied in a fiscal year."

CFG, TAB, and TIAA Bank CDs: CFG (an online bank firm based in New Jersey), TAB (Transportation Alliance Bank), and TIAA (Teachers Insurance & Annuity Association) each have a Symphony Village Certificate of Deposit (CD) maturing between mid-December and mid-January. The Budget & Finance (B&F) Committee recommended the Association liquidate these CDs and reinvest with Fidelity Investments with a return rate of 4%. Additionally, some funds are earmarked as Reserve Funds. Details are within the December 7 Reference Materials online.

Queenstown Bank Money Market (MM): B&F recommended closing the MM (\$35,067) at Queenstown Bank (at .1%) and opening a MM with Congressional Bank (at 2%) to gain more interest.

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## JOIN NEXTDOOR ECHOES

CAROL HODGES

At its core, Nextdoor is a social media app that helps you communicate with your neighbors. As an alternative to traditional forms of social media, Nextdoor offers a more localized, filtered way to build connections with your neighbors, and people in the local area.

Through the Nextdoor app, you can start discussions with your neighbors that bring attention to important issues within your community. You can also buy, sell, and share free items that you want to give away. On top of that, you can also connect with like-minded people around interests such as fitness, hobbies, parenting, local events, and dining. You can also change the settings so that you only share information with Symphony Village.

To join (only if you are a Symphony Village resident), go to this link <https://nextdoor.com/invite/hawsqjdbqgvwqxuztvzj>. If that doesn't work, please email me at [lhodges@atlanticbb.net](mailto:lhodges@atlanticbb.net) or call me at 410-758-0591, and I will send you an invite.

If you are a member of Nextdoor at an old address, you will need to change that. To change your address, open the old Nextdoor and go to Settings under your avatar in the upper right-hand corner. Click on Account and scroll down until you see Move to New Address and follow instructions. Any problems give me a call.

## SAVE THE DATE

### IAL SHOWCASE OF SPRING 2023 CLASSES — SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023, 2–4 P.M.

The Institute for Adult Learning (IAL) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide learning experiences and social events that enrich the lives of the age 50+ community in the Mid-Shore area. The IAL will host a Showcase of Classes for the Spring 2023 Semester on Saturday, January 7, 2023, from 2–4pm, at the Kennard Center, 410 Little Kidwell Avenue, Centreville, MD. The event provides an overview of more than 40 courses to be offered in the Spring 2023 Semester, which runs from February to May 2023, and includes history and current events, brain and body health, local environment and science, and art and history classes. All classes are held during the day, Monday through Friday, and range from a single session to eight sessions.

At the Showcase of Classes, you will be able to meet instructors, hear brief overviews of upcoming classes, catch up with old friends, meet new people, enjoy your favorite beverages and hors d'oeuvres, and register for classes. The membership fee of \$90 per person per semester entitles participants to sign up for an unlimited number of courses. Members are also invited to participate in monthly happy hours and various field trips throughout the semester.

Attendees may join the IAL and enroll in classes either at the Showcase or on the organizations website AFTER the January 7 event. Registration to attend the Showcase is not required but is recommended by sending an email to the IAL email address: [info@instituteforadultlearning.org](mailto:info@instituteforadultlearning.org).

The IAL was established in 2001 and previously housed at Chesapeake College. Following the pandemic, it was reestablished as a component fund within the Mid-Shore Community Foundation and relocated to the Kennard Center.

For more information about the IAL or for a complete listing of Spring 2023 courses, visit the IAL website at [www.instituteforadultlearning.org/](http://www.instituteforadultlearning.org/). If you have additional questions, please contact Cindy Bogner (703-655-6505) or Steve Quigley (410-758-6775), who are both on the IAL Council and SV residents.

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Save the date!

Symphony Village

New Resident Welcome Night  
(and for anyone who may have missed a welcome in the past)

January 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

More information to follow

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### 2023 SV COMMITTEE SIGN UP

Symphony Village committees as stated in the [Terms of Reference](#):

- Budget and Finance
- Covenants
- Landscape and Irrigation
- Lifestyle
- Operations
- Publications and Communications

Every year, residents in good standing may choose to remain on a committee(s) that they have served on in the current year and/or may choose to join a committee(s) for the first time. Both actions require a yearly sign up. Residents may sign up either online—go to <https://symphonyvillage.net/> or on sign-up sheets located in the Wall Street Room at the Clubhouse.

Please sign up no later than **Monday, December 19, 2022**. Please do not sign up in both places.

Don't live in SV twelve months of the year? You may still join a committee—you are deemed “inactive” while away from SV. To see a summary of committee duties, go to the Terms of Reference cited above.

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### LIFESTYLE COMMITTEE

As the final days of 2022 come to an end, the Lifestyle Committee would like to thank every Villager for your volunteerism, attendance, food sharing, financial support, and comradery. You have made Symphony Village a vibrant and wonderful place to call home.

The Committee would also like to extend an invitation for new members! An infusion of new, innovative ideas that will add to the enjoyment of Symphony Village is needed. Sign up to become a Lifestyle Committee member in the Wall Street Room of the Clubhouse.

The Night of Lights and Soup Night was another highly successful and well-attended event of the 2022 holiday season. In addition to the 26 soups, salads, and bread served, the warm adult beverages, music provided by members of the Queen Anne's Chorale added to the sparkle of the evening. A special thanks to Karen Patterson and Amy Landon for heading this monumental, highly anticipated event. We would also like to thank Ed and Cindy Beres, RE/MAX Executives, for providing the delicious beverages and raffle gift. And, last but not least, thanks to Dave Peterson and his band of merry men for once again lighting our community so beautifully and to the soup makers and volunteers who made this evening so very special.

If you came to the Night of Lights and Soup Night, you could not have missed the Clubhouse with its gorgeously decorated trees, garlands, and wreaths. These were all the vision of Symphony Village's own Jo Lynch, who started months in advance creating the stunning displays we are enjoying. These decorations will adorn the Clubhouse for years to come, and we are so thankful to Jo for utilizing her gift and skill to make this possible. And we thank Nick and the many volunteer hands who helped with the decorations.

Please come out and join your neighbors for a special Holiday Dress-Up Social Hour on Saturday, December 17, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Please bring holiday appetizers and

### DEBORAH JONES-MILLER



desserts to share. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Holiday House Decorating Contest winners will be announced on December 17 at the Dress-Up Social Hour. So many homes in the community are beautifully decorated and choosing the winners will be a tough decision. Our thanks go to the judges from Edwards Pharmacy and Economy Restorations.

The New Year's Eve Party at Symphony Village takes place December 31, 2022, from 9:30 p.m. until 12:30 a.m. Eddie "The Hitman" will be back to spin the tunes and sing songs that will bring in the new year. If you would like to have your special song played, please submit your requests to a Lifestyle Committee member or list it when you sign up in the Wall Street Room. The cost for this event is \$5. Don't forget to bring snacks for your table. Please sign up in the Activities Binder and make your check out to SVHOA with "New Year's Eve" in the memo.

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S PEN

I would like to take this time to thank the Lifestyle Committee for allowing me the opportunity to chair the Lifestyle Committee for the past three years. It has been a great joy and pleasure to work with my wonderful Co-Chair, Janet Leister; Treasurer, Joe Sikes; Secretaries, Cathy Toney and Deborah Miller; Board Liaison, Karen Kram, and all the hard-working Committee members. I would also like to thank the many community volunteers and office staff for their unwavering support. It is time for new ideas and new leadership. I wish the Committee much success in the coming year.

Thank you.

*Mary Colling-Officer*

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Holiday Dress-Up Social Hour</b><br>Saturday, December 17<br>6 p.m. to 8 p.m. | Dress up and come celebrate the holidays. Please be sure to bring your appetizers and desserts to share.   | The winners of the House Decorating Contest will be announced. |
| <b>New Year's Eve Party</b><br>Saturday, December 31<br>9:30 pm to 12:30 a.m.    | You are invited to join your neighbors as Eddie "The Hitman" brings in the New Year!<br>Complimentary champagne toast!<br>Bring snacks for your table. | \$5 per person.<br>Sign up in the Wall Street Room.            |

### OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

**JOE SIKES, CHAIR; FRED KURST, VICE CHAIR**

The Operations Committee is responsible for aiding the HOA Board of Directors and the General Manager regarding management and operation of community common property. We share this responsibility with the Landscape and Irrigation Committee and focus on things such as the Clubhouse, swimming pools, and sidewalks.

The Operations Committee finished up the year with the largest replacement of sidewalks in SV history. Second Wind Contracting replaced more than 1,000 sq. ft. of concrete. For the first time, this work included cutting of tree roots that caused much of the sidewalk upheaval. By consulting with Bartlett Tree specialists, we discovered that cutting the roots does not endanger the trees if done properly. This will allow the community to switch from the shaving strategy of recent years to full replacement.

Particular credit goes to Charles Levay and Mike Norris for surveying the community since last May and reviewing additional requests when the work started. The Operations Committee inspects the sidewalks annually and starts with work requests submitted by residents. We expect more sidewalk replacement in the future.

The Operations Committee is currently reviewing the Replacement Reserve Study due to be revised in 2023. A subcommittee of Fred Kurst, Dominic Mancinelli, Norm Bossie, Nancy Emerick, and me is reviewing all 231 capital assets listed in our current study. The review focuses on when replacements are expected to be necessary

and what the replacement cost will be. A new Maryland law requires a specific contribution to the Replacement Reserve account each year, which somewhat reduces our flexibility when constructing annual budgets. Our review is focused on improving the accuracy of the FY2023 study.

We are always looking for new members to help ensure our community remains one of the most attractive neighborhoods on the Eastern Shore. Our first meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Clubhouse. Residents will also be able to attend virtually.

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## **SYMPHONY SNEAKERS**

**LINDA FARRAR**

As I said last month, December is a very busy month for Sneakers. It began with a book giveaway at Kennard Elementary on December 1. Every child was able to choose a new book to read and keep. This is part of our Readers Are Leaders program.

On December 2, the Centreville Middle School Chorus entertained Symphony Village with a delightful holiday concert. They have a choral arts teacher who actually attended the school growing up. Miss Goldsboro is very enthusiastic and brings out the best in the students. Unfortunately, she related to us that the superintendent of Queen Anne's County said that there are no funds for choral arts next semester. This is very distressing as not all children play sports, and the arts provide a positive and self-rewarding experience for them. Please take a few minutes to make your thoughts known to both the Superintendent and the School Board. The superintendent, Dr Patricia Saelens email is [patricia.saelens@qacps.org](mailto:patricia.saelens@qacps.org). Let them know that we care.

Our annual Giving Tree Project is coming to an end. By the time you read this, 36 children and their 16 families will be receiving gifts, food baskets, and food gift cards to get them through the holidays. This was made possible by the unbelievable generosity of our Symphony Village residents and an anonymous donor, who provided the food for the food baskets. A special shout-out goes to Terri O'Connell, Rochelle Ray, Rose Clark, Tom and Gretchen Burton, and all the other Sneakers members who helped with the separation and distribution of the gifts. Thanks to one and all.



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## **CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES**

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### **READING FOR FUN – NOVEMBER 2022 REVIEW**

**JOE SIKES**

The SV Book Club held a hybrid meeting on November 15 to discuss *Something Unbelievable* by Maria Kuznetsova. Attendees included: Joe Sikes, Jan Withers, Kathryn & Jim Buckheit, Sue Goldberg, Cathy Olson, Carol Saltiel, Kitty Wilson, and Bob Nilsson. Mary Jo Volpicelli could not attend but provided comment separately.

Maria Kuznetsova was born in Kyiv, Ukraine, and moved to the United States as a child. She has fashioned a story about the struggles of Natasha Schulman, who is a new mother and aspiring actress in modern day Manhattan. Trapped between the demands of motherhood and a failing career, Natasha seeks refuge in video calls with her grandmother Larissa, who lives in Kyiv. I admit that the Ukrainian connection attracted our attention as a Book Club. Let's see how that worked out.

Natasha also immigrated as a child from Ukraine and the opening chapter informs us that by the time she was seventeen, she had lost her father, mother, and first husband. Larissa bemoans that America has made Natasha soft and cites her proclivity to bring all manner of scroungy pets into the home. Larissa also describes how when she visited from Ukraine, she would reduce the pet population by taking them out back with a frying pan. Alrighty then!

Natasha's acting career is strongly influenced by her ability to speak Russian and her roles often consist of playing Russian prostitutes (including on "The Americans"), This is frustrating and her attempt to seek better



roles is hamstrung by the demands of taking care of baby Talia. She seeks escape in listening to her grandmother's grim tales of survival during World War II. It seems their families, going back four generations, had survived the Communist revolution and, subsequently were forced into a work camp when the Nazis invaded Ukraine. Much of the book describes the starvation and death experienced by the family and how they survived.

The story attempts to demonstrate that the two women are not so different in their life struggles, and Natasha even becomes motivated to write a one-woman play based on her grandmother's story. The club had two impediments in following this story line. First Larissa's story was very grim, whereas Natasha's situation is better described as sad. We felt that the comparison was very unbalanced. Secondly, while Larissa can be described as a no-bullshit person (remember the frying pan), Natasha comes across mostly as a whiner. Despite recognizing that Natasha's behavior could have been a result of post-partum depression, her character was just unlikeable. The book club overwhelmingly found Natasha to be their least favorite character.

The book was written well before the current invasion of Ukraine. This left us to imagine how the story would have been written if Natasha's character was based in modern day Ukraine. But the Club graded the story as written and awarded a score of 6.0 out of 10.

The score might have been a point higher except for an incident related during the family's stay in a 1940s Nazi work camp. Starvation was an ever-present threat and one day the family cat mysteriously disappeared. When meat soon appeared on the dinner table, suspicion was strong that the meal was procured with a frying pan! The club's grade clearly reflected a cat penalty.

We hold our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Clubhouse. We have started to hold hybrid meetings, so contact me if you would like to attend virtually. My email is [sikes.withers@yahoo.com](mailto:sikes.withers@yahoo.com)

Our current list of books and associated review dates are listed below.

December 20 *Old Woman with the Knife* by Gu Byeong-mo

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## SV ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY CYCLING EVENT

Mark your calendars for the annual New Year's Day cycling event: "I've ridden my bike every day this year." All SV bike riders are encouraged to meet at the Clubhouse at 10 a.m., January 1, 2023, and ride for as long as weather permits. Some cycle a few hundred feet while others have been known to ride for as much as five to ten miles within SV.

Following the ride, all participants traditionally gather in the Clubhouse for hot chocolate and pastries—this year served by Loretta Quigley. Each year it seems some bikers are more eager to return to the Clubhouse for the delicious treats than rack up mileage and "bragging rights" for the New Year.

Come join the camaraderie on New Year's Day. NOTE: Helmets are required. If you need a helmet, call Lloyd McAtee at 410-758-2443.



*Riders from 2021*



*Ride Every Day 2022*

## LUNCH BUNCH

MARGE STRANO

The Lunch Bunch will take a break for the winter months of January, February, and March.

We hope you enjoyed attending our luncheon events at the Severn Inn, Scossa Restaurant & Lounge, Luisa's Cucina Italiana, Kentmorr Restaurant, Carrol's Creek Cafe, Fish Whistle at the Granary, Hunters Tavern at the Tidewater, and The Narrows over the last eight months.

If you are new to the SV community, consider attending a luncheon in 2023 to meet your Symphony neighbors.

We look forward to Spring 2023 and an announcement about some new and old venues we will be scheduling. Do you have a favorite spot to lunch? Perhaps you know of a new restaurant we can consider. Email your ideas to [mbestrano@gmail.com](mailto:mbestrano@gmail.com) or [bptrotta@gmail.com](mailto:bptrotta@gmail.com).

Have a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!



*Lunch Bunch photos during 2022*

## SYMPHONY VILLAGE OUTREACH PROGRAM, INC.

SUE CANFIELD, PRESIDENT

As January approaches quickly, please consider joining a committee of Symphony Village! The committees provide the activities here in our neighborhood.



We need your energy and your support to continue to keep Symphony Village the neighborhood it has always been and make it even better! As you read about SV Outreach's great volunteer opportunities, I hope some of you will come and say, "I can do that!"

The purposes for which the Symphony Village Outreach Program was formed are as follows:

- ◆ To volunteer financial support to local services and support educational programs and other lawful, charitable organizations within Queen Anne's County. (QAC)
- ◆ To provide compassionate, short-term assistance for SV residents during times of illness, disabilities, and death in their family.

Outreach is exempt from Federal income tax under section 501C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We have sponsored fundraisers throughout the years such as the Artisan Fair at the Clubhouse for many years, an Annual Food Drive in November for QAC Food Pantry, and an Annual Card Party in October. We will also sponsor our first Author's Luncheon in April 2023.

Proceeds raised from these events are used to support nonprofit organizations within Queen Anne's County, such as the Friends of the Library, University of Maryland Shore Emergency Center, the QAC Crossroads Community, Inc. Dental Program, Haven Ministries Shelter, QAC Department of Emergency Services, Compass Regional Hospice, Camp New Dawn, and the Goodwill Fire Company. There are other nonprofit organizations within QAC that we support on an annual basis as well.

We are always looking for new members and all SV residents are welcome to join Outreach. This is a "Feel Good" Committee. Come and join us to help raise money for others!

We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Clubhouse.

## OUTREACH 14TH ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE PRESENTATION TO SOCIAL SERVICES

Thanks to the generosity of many of our neighbors and friends, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Outreach Food Drive was a huge success. Your Outreach team presented Social Services with gift cards to Food Lion and ACME totaling nearly \$6,000. These holiday gifts will go a long way toward helping those in need in our community.



Pictures L to R: Sue Peterson, Secretary; Sue Canfield, Outgoing President; Jone Taylor, Nurturing Coordinator for Social Services; Jody Simmons, Acting Director QAC DSS; JoAnn Walker, Incoming President; and Loretta Quigley, Event Chair.

### ADD AN EXTRA CARD OR TWO...

When filling out your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address: A Recovering American Soldier, c/o Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, 8901 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20889-5600. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful, special people, who have sacrificed so much would get. Please copy and post on your wall.

## GET TO KNOW YOUR CLUBHOUSE

CAROL HODGES

### JIGSAW PUZZLES

Many already know that we have jigsaw puzzles to borrow. Puzzles are located in the cabinets of the Arts and Crafts Room. There are 300-, 500-, and 1,000-piece puzzles. Borrow one or two for as long as you want. When you are finished, please return them so others can enjoy the puzzles.

### PAPERBACK AND HARDBACK BOOKS

There is an honor system library also. In the Card Room, there is a bookcase with many hardback books. Feel free to borrow at any time. Donations are also welcome if there is room. There is a step stool in the closet to help reach the books on upper shelves. (The step stool may occasionally be moved to the kitchen).

In the gym there is a paperback library. It is located in the upper cabinets. Again, you can borrow at any time. These are great for when you travel because you do not have to worry about getting them back on time. Please help when you can keep it organized. There is a step stool in that closet as well. (There are also exercise tapes in the cabinets to use while you are working out).

### BUSINESS CARDS AND OTHER INFORMATION

In the Arts and Crafts Room, there are three bulletin boards where business cards and other information are posted. (The bulletin board by the front door of the Clubhouse is for local charity events and local productions, etc.) Check the bulletin boards regularly. There are many posts about health care options that many are looking for. Several handymen and house cleaners post their business cards. Please do your part to help it keep organized.



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# CENTREVILLE HAPPENINGS

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## CENTREVILLE AREA HAPPENINGS PLUS

CHARLOTTE GODFREY



*Centreville 2022 Christmas Parade!*



*Gingerbread House in Ridgely*

So much to enjoy! Scroll through the listings for your next adventure!

**Community Wellness in the Symphony Village Clubhouse Craft Room:** second Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (January 11 and February 8). Screenings include Blood Pressure, Pulse, Glucose, and Cholesterol.

**Ongoing Wellness Classes:** free and online, [www.edwardspharmacy.com](http://www.edwardspharmacy.com).

**Chestertown Farmers and Artisans Market:** Saturdays year-round, 8 a.m. to noon, Fountain Park, High Street.

**Kent Island Farmer's Market:** Thursdays year-round, 3 to 6 p.m., at Cult Classic Brewery, 1169 Shopping Center Rd, Stevensville. (Wonderful freshly baked bread!)

**Easton's Farmers' Market:** Saturdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, December 17, Public Parking Lot. [marie@avalonfoundation](mailto:marie@avalonfoundation).

**Birding the Harriet Tubman Byway:** Thursday, December 15 from 1 to 5 p.m. Explore Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge and nearby sites along the Harriet Tubman Railroad Byway. [visitdorchester.org](http://visitdorchester.org)

**“Summertree”** by Ron Cowen: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday performances, January 20 to February 5. Church Hill Theatre, 410-556-6003.

### **The Nutcracker and Dance Events:**

- **Ballet Theatre of Maryland** presents the Nutcracker at the Maryland Hall for Creative Arts in Annapolis on Saturday and Sunday, December 17–18, times vary.
- **Mid Shore Dance Academy** presents Visions of Sugar Plums, A Showcase of Seasonal Dancing Delights, Saturday, December 17, at 7 p.m. at the Chesapeake College Todd Performing Arts Center.
- **Wish Upon a Star Holiday Showcase Dance Program** by Rhythm Xpress on Monday, December 19, at the Church Hill Theatre. [www.churchhilltheatre.org](http://www.churchhilltheatre.org).

**Chesapeake Forum and Academy for Lifelong Learning:** [www.chesapeakeforum.org/new-courses](http://www.chesapeakeforum.org/new-courses).

**Cookie Walk** on Saturday, December 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Galilee Lutheran Church, Harbor Drive, Chester.

### **Kent Island Federation of Arts:**

- **Miniature Show and Holiday Art & Craft Sale:** KIFA, Stevensville, through Wednesday, December 21. [www.kifa.us](http://www.kifa.us)
- **All Creatures Inspiring and Funny: A show celebrating the natures of all living organisms that provide a world** of textures, colors, and shapes. Monday, January 27, to Monday, February 27.

### **Queen Annes's County Library:** [www.qaclibrary.org/calendar-monthly](http://www.qaclibrary.org/calendar-monthly).

- **Ongoing Technology Help** – schedule one-on-one help by appointment at Centreville Library. 410-758-0980.
- **Take online classes** – Gale courses instructor lead: 410 -758-0980.
- **Books by Mail** – For patrons who cannot visit library; must complete registration form. Postage paid by library. 410-643-8161. <https://qaclibrary.org/books-by-mail>.
- **The Memory Center – Making Memories.** Transfer old home videos (VHS and mini tapes) to disk or thumb drive. Free. Centreville Branch Library. Appointment encouraged: 410 758-0980. [www.qaclibrary.org/the-memory-center](http://www.qaclibrary.org/the-memory-center)

### **The Adkins Arboretum:** (410-634-2847), [adkinsarboretum.org](http://adkinsarboretum.org).

- **Climate Circle:** climate crisis and building a community around solutions. Third Wednesdays through May, 23 from 2–4 p.m.
- **Exploring Colored Pencil,** Wed, January 28, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Thurs., January 29, 12–4 p.m.

### **American Legion Jeff Davis Post 18:**

- **Every Sunday Queen of Hearts Drawing**
- **Wreaths Across America,** Saturday, December 17.

**The *Attraction***—Pick up a copy of the December, 2022, *Attraction* in the Clubhouse or Centreville library for wonderful descriptions of numerous activities happening December and January. Magazine page numbers added for further review of the events.

- **Avalon Theatre:** Judy Collins, Friday, January 6, at 7 p.m.; Ken and Brad Kolodner, Saturday, January 17, at 7 p.m.; Larry Campbell and Teresa Williams, Thursday, February 2, at 7 p.m. p. 9
- **Holiday Dining Experience at the Avalon.** Three course meals, also feature lights, decorations, and holiday tunes. Thursday, December 15, through Sunday, December 18, at 5 p.m. 410-822-7299, p. 9.
- **Watercolor exhibit** and competition at St. Michaels library through December, [smartleague.org](http://smartleague.org), p.13.
- **First Night Talbot 2023.** Ring in the New Year on Saturday, December 31, from 6–12 p.m. in downtown Easton. See events planned for the evening on p. 16.
- **December Holiday Train Display:** at the Rescue Fire Company, 307 Gay St., Cambridge, Monday–Friday at 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. p.26.
- **Textile Exhibit:** Wednesday through Saturdays until December 31 at FACES, 7 N. 4th St., Denton. View quilts and wall hangings., p. 40.
- **Holiday Light Display:** through Monday, January 2, at Railroad Memorial Park, 1 West Railroad Ave., Ridgely. Display is six blocks long with a life-sized gingerbread house, the historic train station and caboose. p.40.
- **Denton Holiday Window event:** through Sunday, January 1. p. 40.

- **Working Arts Forum painting exhibit:** at Easton Branch library through Monday, January 30. Saturday, December 17, attend a demo by oil painting artist Abby Ober 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. p. 47.
- **Artisan Show at the Artists Gallery:** on High St. in Chestertown, featuring handcrafted jewelry and crafts from its collection of artists along the Eastern Shore. Open through January. [www.artistsgalleryctown.com](http://www.artistsgalleryctown.com). p. 54.
- **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat** running through Sunday, December 18, at the Garfield Center for the Arts, Chestertown. 410-810-2060. p. 55.
- **Holiday Art Walk:** Saturday, December 17, Chestertown's Arts and Entertainment District, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., 410-778-3700. p. 56.
- **Cambridge Ice and Oyster Festival:** downtown Cambridge Friday and Saturday, January 13–14. Ice sculptures, a polar plunge, raw oysters on the half shell, fire pit and s'mores. p. 58.
- **“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens:** Live or broadcast via computers at the Church Hill Theatre, Friday to Saturday, December 16, 17, at 8 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. Tickets: [www.churchhilltheatre.org](http://www.churchhilltheatre.org) or 410-556-6003. p. 59.
- **Celebrate Christmas at the Tilghman Waterman's Museum:** Saturday and Sunday, December 17–18, noon to 4 p.m., including the popular train garden, creche sets from around the world, vintage trains, and decorated trees. Can also schedule tours “An Island Christmas” by calling 410-886-1025. p. 65.

If you know of any events you would like to share, please email them to me at [godfreycb@me.com](mailto:godfreycb@me.com).

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